

Virginia Department of Education Board Highlights



For Immediate Release

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Board of Education to Review Standards of Quality

The Board of Education voted at its October 22 meeting in Staunton to undertake a periodic review of the Standards of Quality (SOQ). The SOQ define the minimum education program that Virginia school divisions must offer and form the basis for the majority of state funding for public education. The SOQ are stated in the Code of Virginia, consequently, revisions proposed by the board must be submitted to the General Assembly for legislative action.

"I am proud of the board for taking action on an issue of tremendous importance to local educators," said Board of Education President Kirk T. Schroder. Mr. Schroder noted that it has been many years since the board last undertook a comprehensive review of the SOQ. "The Constitution of Virginia contemplates a leading role for the board in updating the Standards of Quality. This board intends to carry out its obligation to review and update the standards in an orderly and thoughtful manner."

The board voted unanimously to amend its bylaws to require a review of the SOQ at least once every two years. The review process will include public hearings and the reception of written comment. The results of the board's review and any recommended changes to the Standards of Quality will be communicated to the Governor and General Assembly.

In other action at its October meeting, the board:

- Adopted a resolution in memory of Senator Emily Couric, who passed away on October 18. The resolution praised Sen. Couric as a "great champion for the cause of public education" and expressed the board's admiration for her life and work;
- Recommended that the 2002 General Assembly include funding for teacher salary increases in the "caboose bill" on appropriations for the current fiscal year and in each year of the 2002-2004 biennium;
- Approved the expansion of the Central Shenandoah Valley Regional Governor's School for Mathematics, Science, and Technology and the establishment, contingent on funding from the General Assembly, of the Piedmont Governor's School for Mathematics, Science, and Technology.

The board's next meeting is scheduled for November 28 in Senate Room B of the General Assembly Building in Richmond.

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Highlights from the Board of Education Meeting October 22, 2001

Consent Agenda

- Final review of recommendations concerning release of Literary Fund loans for placement on waiting list
- Final review of recommendations concerning applications for Literary Fund loans
- Final review of financial report of Literary Fund
- First review of nominations for appointments to the Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted (moved to consent agenda from regular agenda)

Resolutions and Recognitions

- Resolution in memory of Senator Emily Couric.
- Resolutions of appreciation presented to the Mathematics Standards of Learning Revision Team members.

Discussion and Action Items

ITEM	ACTION
First review of proposed revisions to Regulations Governing Driver Education (8 VAC 20-340-10 et. seq.)	The board authorized the Department of Education to continue the procedures of the Administrative Process Act.
First review of proposed amendments to the Regulations Governing Adult High School Programs (8 VAC 20-30-10 et. seq.)	The board authorized the Department of Education to continue the procedures of the Administrative Process Act.
First review of proposed amendments to the Rules Governing General Educational Development Certificates (8 VAC 20-360-10 et. seq.)	The board authorized the Department of Education to continue the procedures of the Administrative Process Act.
First review of recommendations from the Accountability Advisory Committee	The board received the committee's recommendation that the board not add an essay question at this time to any of the social studies SOL tests. The board approved on final review the committee's recommendation that in calculating accreditation, schools receive credit for remedial students who pass re-takes of SOL tests in science and social studies while not being penalized for failed re-takes.
First review of recommendations from the Report Card Committee	The board appointed a subcommittee chaired by Vice-President Susan Noble to devise an abbreviated school report card for distribution to parents this fall. The subcommittee also will study how to enhance the timeliness of the report card.
First review of recommendations regarding cut-scores for the Alternate Assessment Program	The board adopted the proposed cut-scores on final review after approving a score of 20 as the cut-score for social studies and science.

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First review of the establishment of the Piedmont Governor's School for Mathematics, Science and Technology serving the school divisions of Danville, Martinsville, Henry County, Patrick County, and Pittsylvania County	The board waived first review and approved the establishment of the school on final review while noting that the program is contingent on funding from the General Assembly.
First review of the expansion of the Central Shenandoah Valley Regional Governor's School serving the school divisions of Staunton, Waynesboro, and Augusta County.	The board waived first review and approved the expansion of the school on final review.
First review of proposed amendment to the Resolution for the Establishment and Operation of the Adult Education and Literacy Advisory Committee of the Virginia Board of Education	The board waived first review and approved the amendment on final review. The amendment adds three additional voting members to the committee; clarifies that the voting membership of the committee is a total of 14 members with two members serving as co-chairmen; and specifies that the President of the Board of Education may appoint any number of <i>ex officio</i> members.
First review of appointments to vacancies on the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure	The board appointed Dale E. Sander, superintendent Fredericksburg City Public Schools, and Cherly Lightfoot, fifth-grade teacher at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School in Louisa County, to the advisory board.
First review of proposed timeline for revising the Guidance Standards of Learning	The board waived first review and approved the timeline on final review.
First review of Board of Education Guiding Principles for Revising the Standards of Quality	The board struck this item from the agenda.
First review of proposed schedule for reviewing the Standards of Quality	The board struck this item from the agenda.
Final review of proposed revision of the Mathematics Standards of Learning	The board approved the proposed revision on final review.
Final review of Report to the Governor and the 2002 General Assembly Concerning Recommendations from House Joint Resolution 640	The board approved the report on final review.
Final review of the 2002-2004 Biennial Budget for Direct Aid to Public Education	The board adopted the proposed budget while recommending that the 2002 General Assembly include funding for an increase in teacher salaries in the 2002 "caboose bill" for fiscal year 2002 and include funding for teacher salary increases in each year of the 2002-2004 biennial budget.

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Final review of proposed amendment to the Board of Education's bylaws	The board approved the amendment on final review, adding Article Sixteen to its bylaws requiring the board, or its respective standing committee, to determine the need for a review of the Standards of Quality at least once every two years. The board will meet in December as a committee of the whole to hear recommendations concerning the SOQ from the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC).
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Public Comment

Public Hearings

- Public hearing on the proposed revisions to the Licensure Regulations for School Personnel (8 VAC 20-21 et. seq.)

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